



AN ORDINANCE

BY COUNCILMEMBER CLAIR MULLER

00-0-0038

G-13

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 9, CHAPTER 7, SECTION 9-7001 ENTITLED "SANITARY SERVICE CHARGES" OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE CALCULATION OF SANITARY SERVICE CHARGES.

Whereas, a portion of the solid waste fees for residents of Atlanta is based on the street frontage of their property because street sweeping is part of the total solid waste bill; and

Whereas, street sweeping in many U.S. cities is billed in the stormwater utility bill because vacuuming streets prevents some of the pollution of the stormwater; and

Whereas, TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads) requirements of pollutants that can be discharged into rivers must be addressed by stormwater and wastewater; and

Whereas, under the Clean Water Act Consent Decree, the City is already required to sweep very regularly the streets in our CSO areas; and

Whereas, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta states that the streets will be swept every three weeks and for this reason the front footage of the property is used for a portion of the calculated solid waste bill; and

Whereas, the tipping fees for the City of Atlanta continue to rise because the City no longer owns any open landfills and must negotiate with a land fill operator which receives our solid waste by contract; and

Whereas, the City of Atlanta also has contracts for hauling of recycled items and for yard trimming (compost) processing which the City hauls; and

Whereas, the solid waste fee that is billed to the residents of Atlanta should have a direct correlation with the hauling of solid waste, the contracts dealing with recycling and composting, and the education of the public to the City's cost of hauling, tipping fees for landfills and the costs of the contracts; and

Whereas, in year 2000, the City of Atlanta will send bills for solid waste fees separate from the property tax bill for the second year; and

Whereas, the residents of Atlanta are now more aware of the justification of the billing for solid waste fees and need to see the direct correlation of their fee with their service; and

Whereas, yard wastes do not need to be hauled on a weekly basis and probably monthly would be sufficient, and more back yard composting could be encouraged; and

Whereas, large items such as furniture and appliances should be hauled by the City when an appointment is made and a charge is collected for removal of freon from refrigerated appliances; and

Whereas, some portion of the solid waste fee ~~should be used~~ to educate the public on these new procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the code of ordinances of the City of Atlanta shall be changed to reflect a direct correlation between the solid waste services provided by the City of Atlanta and the tipping fees and contracts and education of the residents; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the street sweeping necessary for compliance with the Clean Water Act Consent Decree be charged to the water/sewer fund of the City and that street sweeping in the non-CSO areas of the City be billed on the stormwater utility bills.